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TURN

THIRD QUARTER
1979

NEWSLETTER

MONTANA



DISASTER
AND
EMERGENCY
SERVICES DIVISION

351.755
A 1bm
3rd quarter

HELLED WITH
PERIODICALS

C.L. Gilbertson
Administrator

Thomas L. Judge
Governor

John J. Womack
The Adjutant General

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

We are in the second quarter of our State's fiscal year and the first quarter of our new Federal fiscal year. We've been under our new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for over three months and nothing of any consequence has transpired to date. As of this writing, we do not even have a permanent regional director appointed!

Congress has not passed any appropriations for FY80 as yet, so we have no idea what our Federal funding levels will be for this upcoming year. Early rumors of possible levels of funding don't sound too great! I guess, the not knowing of what the policies, emphasis or funding levels will be is what makes it the worst. When FEMA was first proposed, we all felt this year of implementation would be one of indecision and uncertainty, with perhaps some gains and some losses.

I guess what all this means to us at the state and local level is perhaps a year at "status quo". We must work to get back our losses such as our Excess Property Program and the de-emphasis of the nuclear oriented programs. We, at the state office, pledge to do what we can with what we have to work with. As usual, our bright spot is you, "the local coordinator" who, we feel can and will respond to any emergency or disaster within your local jurisdiction, whether it be a heating oil crisis or storms this winter, floods in the spring or whatever!

As the new National Director of FEMA, John Macy, so aptly put it, "In any disaster, the local coordinator and local government is on the firing line". So hang in there, we'll do what we can and sooner or later the Feds will get their act together!

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

NOV 1 1979

MONTANA STATE LIB
930 E Lyndale Ave
Helena, Montana 59601

ON THE LOCAL SCENE

WELCOME ABOARD

Kevin Fenner.....Effective 8/1/79.....Coordinator.....Fallon County
Eugene Wood.....Effective 7/7/79.....Coordinator.....Powder River Co.
Sandy Stone.....Effective 8/24/79.....Secretary.....Roosevelt County
Richard Bell.....Effective 9/1/79.....Coordinator.....Treasure County

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY

The action report reads like the scenerio of a well planned exercise..."During a Labor Day Parade with approximately 10,000 people lining the streets, a F106 jet aircraft crashes into a 105 foot grain elevator along the parade route, explodes, setting a 17,000 gallon Exxon storage tank on fire, as well as an oil-grease shed and miscellaneous small support structures."

Unfortunately, this was not an exercise, but a real disaster situation that averted very tragic consequences by only minutes--eleven minutes to be exact---which was the amount of time that the parade was behind schedule!

Some of the events occurring in this disaster are uncanny--just like a well planned "exercise", fire, law enforcement, ambulances, reserve forces (National Guard personnel) for crowd control, were on the scene and ready for action--they were part of the parade and only seconds away from the actual "crash" site! There were two geological survey company helicopters, equipped with 100 gallon buckets that just happened to be stationed in Dillon and were ready to assist. There were doctors from neighboring communities that just happened to be in Dillon attending the festivities that went right to the hospital to volunteer their services. Also the fact that the parade marshall just happened to be late and the parade was delayed, turned out to be a very fortunate turn of events. Had it been on time, the county's entire squad of fire trucks, ambulances and some of their police vehicles and personnel could very easily been at the exact scene of the crash and been listed among the "victims" instead of being able to act as "quick response" units!

The "Man of the Hour" proved to be Rick Later, Undersheriff of Beaverhead County, who, in the absence of the local director, assumed control, set up an emergency command post in a private business (courthouse was without power) from where he proceeded to contact the State DES, and neighboring localities for immediate assistance.

Rick has commented that the training that has been "drilled into him" from civil defense classes that he has attended while in the capacity of a volunteer fireman, helped give him the background to take command and handle the situation!

The pilot of the jet was the only fatality, while one woman sustained extensive burns requiring her evacuation to the burn center in Salt Lake City, and around twenty-five others were treated for minor injuries.

FLATHEAD COUNTY

Flathead County DES Coordinator, Kim Potter, recently presented Donald Komenda, Highway Section foreman from Marion, Montana, with a County Award for his "quick and correct" actions during a recent hazardous materials incident.

A flexible rubber bladder containing resin, the material used to glue wood products, ruptured for an unknown reason while being transferred by truck, spilling some 43,000 pounds of the sticky stuff onto the U.S. Highway #2 near Boisverts Camp on McGregor Lake. Two persons were injured when their pickup truck skidded when it hit the glue. The water supply for one private residence and Boisverts Camp (A Bar and Cafe complex) and the waters of McGregor Lake were threatened.

Komenda reacted to the incident by having his crew place crushed gravel over the spill, then used equipment to mix the "mess" until it could be picked up with a front end loader, loaded on dump trucks and transported to the land fill for burial.

Kim Potter said that Komenda's quick actions held most of the resin out of McGregor Lake, however, 10 to 15 gallons of the material did reach the lake but aquatic life apparently was not harmed.

WIBAUX COUNTY

From the Wibaux Pioneer Gazette, September 6, 1979:

A young lady volunteered for the first aid course given by her local Civil Defense group. She was walking down the avenue one day when she saw a man lying face down in the gutter. She leaned down to his prostrate form and began massaging his back and his sides, rubbing frantically with all her strength. She continued to work feverishly for ten minutes until the man looked up and said: "Lady, I don't know what you're doin', but I'm tryin' to get this electric cable down the manhole."

REGION VIII - PHASE I, II & III

1980 FY

Phase III.....Denver, Colorado.....October 1-12, 1979

Phase II.....*Colorado Springs.....January 14-25, 1980

Phase III.....Kansas City.....March 10-21, 1980

Phase I.....*Colorado Springs.....July 14-25, 1980

* These classes were originally scheduled to be held in Denver, but high motel costs forced Region into moving them back to Colorado Springs. Contact Roy Ryan at the State DES Office for more information.

ADVANCED SEMINAR
Billings, Montana
October 16-18, 1979

For those DES Coordinators who were unable to attend the recent Advanced Seminar held in Billings, we'd like to say that you really missed a good seminar!

The Program, a "Show and Tell" presented by our local coordinators of lessons learned during various types of disaster situations, exercises, response situations, etc., was quite revealing, instructive, and extremely interesting. Those Coordinators who were called upon to make a presentation did an outstanding job! Our sincere thanks to the following for their efforts in making this Seminar a success:

Dale Laney.....Custer County.....Hail Storms, Ice Jams & Floods
Wilma Puich.....Butte/Silver Bow Co.....Fires
Jim Kraft.....Yellowstone Co.....Resource Management
Wilma Puich.....Butte/Silver Bow Co.....Communications
Carl King.....Blaine Co.....Snow Disaster
Norm Parrent.....Big Horn Co.....Floods
Tom Kelly.....Stillwater Co.....Floods
Hank Wruck.....Gallatin Co.....Airport Exercise
Kim Potter.....Flathead Co.....Helicopter Response Programs

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST A SEMINAR IN YOUR TOWN?

The Advanced Seminar held in Billings recently was a first...the first time that a local DES Office had "hosted" the event. We certainly had a good turn-out and hope that it was a move in the right direction. Within funding capabilities, we'd be happy to continue "moving" the Fall Advanced Seminar around the state. This is one way that each of us can see and learn a little bit more about the programs in our neighboring county. So, if you're proud of your town, have an EOC that you'd like to show off, etc., you might consider hosting the next seminar (scheduled for October 1980). Here's some of the criteria necessary:

.....A motel which will accommodate around sixty reservations.

.....A meeting room which will hold around sixty people - classroom style (does not have to be connected to the motel, just more convenient if it is).

.....Room accommodations must have adequate lighting and be able to handle our audio-visual equipment.

.....Motel rates which will meet our allowable per diem rates (i.e. not over \$21.00 per night).

.....Costs connected with the following: Meeting room, coffee, hospitality room, etc.

If you'd like to have us visit your town next fall, get your facts in order and put in your "bid" at the Spring Seminar (held in conjunction with the Governor's Conference) so that it can be considered.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mr. Will Degeraty, the Montana Director of Disaster and Emergency Services of the Seventy-Day Adventist Church, spoke at the Advanced Seminar in Billings on the potential role their organization might play in disaster situations. He indicated that although the quality and quantity may vary from one local unit to another, all generally have some capability to assist in the areas of mass feeding, clothing and bedding.

This is a resource that each local DES Coordinator should investigate. Following (by Districts) is a listing of the local Unit Leaders:

DISTRICT #1

Dorcas Leader
Butte SDA Church
2500 Grand Ave., Box 3043
Butte, MT 59701

Lillie Kennedy
Box 231
Plains, MT 59859

Rosalind Ainley
1886 Highway 93 North
Kalispell, MT 59901

Evelyn Lowman
1311 Old Darby Road
Darby, MT 59829

Marion Hayden
Route 1, Box 1357
Libby, MT 59923

Norma Jorgensen
Route 2, Box 125X
Stevensville, MT 59870

Nancy Cooper
Route 1, Box 15
Superior, MT 59872

Evelyn Mitchell
3405 North Avenue, W
Missoula, MT 59801

Estle Johnson
Box 1514
Trout Creek, MT 59874

Cheryl Lane
Box 485
Hamilton, MT 59840

Nona Fuhrmann
Box 623
Ronan, MT 59864

Virginia Jorgenson
Ovando, MT 59854

DISTRICT #2

Laura Nowlin
Box 232
Dutton, MT 59433

Gloria Ewell
Box 762
Lewistown, MT 59457

Karen Andregg
407-7th Avenue S.
Shelby, MT 59474

Geri Brusett
526 South Oakes
Helena, MT 59601

Frances Hoaglund
1615-1st Ave. No.
Great Falls, MT 59401

DISTRICT #3

Sue McComb
Box 55
Big Timber, MT 59011

Lenora Nelson
675 Canyon View Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715

Erna Kempf
Custer, MT 59024

Geneva Ross
111 Grand Avenue
Billings, MT 59102

Buelah Lucas
Box 462
Bridger, MT 59014

Eva Herbel
Route 1
Hardin, MT 59034

Ornastine Whitney
1016 E. Lewis
Livingston, MT 59047

Vieth Schnek
South of Roundup
Roundup, MT 59072

DISTRICT #4

Velma Barrow
Ekalaka, MT 59324

Elsie Bieber
Brockway, MT 59214

Jane Boodry
Savage, MT 59262

Goldie Dahl
213-C Spruce 52-C
Glasgow AFB, MT 59230

Dorothy Conley
811 Palmer
Miles City, MT 59301

Ellamae Jones
513 Laurel
Plentywood, MT 59254

NATIONAL SAR SCHOOL ANNOUNCES TWO COURSES

A search and rescue course designed to assist state and local governments and volunteer organizations by enhancing the professionalism and knowledge of their responsible SAR officials and members will be presented by the National SAR School during 1980 at the following locations:

February 4-8, 1980 @ National SAR School
U.S. Coast Guard Training Center
Governors Island
New York, NY 10004
(Nominations close December 23, 1979)

October 20-24, 1980 @ U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Training Command
Naval Support Activity
Sand Point
Seattle, Washington 98115
(Nominations close September 1, 1980)

There is no tuition for attendance at either of these courses. Nor is there a charge for attendees residing in the Governors Island Bachelor Officers Quarters. However, there is a \$2.00/day BOQ fee at Sand Point.

Cost for transportation to the school and meals must be borne by the attendee or his organization. Registration fee is \$3.00. Meals are available at the Officer's Club.

You may contact the State DES Office for more information and a "SAR Course Application" or you may contact the school direct:

Officer in Charge
National SAR School
U.S. Coast Guard Training Center
Governors Island
New York, NY 10004

* * * * *

RESULTS OF WARNEX 79-3

A gross analysis has been completed for the State and the results are as follows:

Fifty-three (53) responses received...of these, forty-five (45) counties fanned out warning within 15 minutes, the remaining eight (8) took over 15 minutes.

Even though we consider fifty-three responses as "good", last time we had 100%!!! Basically, the warning times remained good (if these are actual times and the counties are actually going through their fan out procedures). Remember, be honest with yourselves, it's your County!

TIPS ON WRITING A MEMBER OF CONGRESS

A personal visit with a member of Congress is always one of the most effective means of presenting your position on any issue. A face-to-face encounter is proof of your sincere interest on that issue. However, from Montana this is a rather costly trip unless you were to visit with your Senator or Congressman on one of his visits back to Montana.

So the next best thing is to make your views known by the morning mail. Our elected officials do care what the morning mail says---it would simply be bad politics, not to!

It's important that your message be presented as effectively as possible. Here are a few pointers:

1. It's a good idea to confine yourself to only one subject in each letter.
2. Be brief! Letters over two pages may be saved for another day. However, the need for brevity should not be achieved at the expense of clarity.
3. Don't assume that each member is well informed on each given problem. So, state your purpose at the outset and use the remainder to expand on your views.
4. Be certain your name and address are on both the envelope and letter.
5. All legislators are called "Honorable" (i.e. Honorable Max Baucus) on the envelope and inside addresses. In the salutation, Representatives are addressed as "Mr." (i.e. Dear Mr. Marlenee) and Senators are called "Senator" (i.e. Dear Senator Melcher). If you know them personally, then the salutation should be personalized. (i.e. Dear Pat)

Mainly, don't forget you're the boss! You vote these people into office and you pay their salaries.

Other information which may be helpful is as follows:

1. To obtain a Bill or committee report, contact:

House Document Room
H-226 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3456

Senate Document Room
S-325 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4321

2. If you want other members of Congress and don't have their phone number, call Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and they can connect you.

To assist you in this effort, the following listing is the current addresses, phone numbers and local offices for your records (as of October 1, 1979):

Current Congressional Contacts

October 9, 1979

Senator Max Baucus
Suite 1107, Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2651
Toll Free: 1-800-332-6106

Senator John Melcher
Suite 1123, Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2644

Billings: 320 Securities Building
2708½ First Avenue North
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 657-6790

Federal Building
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 657-6644

Butte: Federal Building
Room 257
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 792-8700

225 South Idaho Street
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-8211

Great Falls: Pennant Building
102 Fourth Street North
Suite 300
Great Falls, MT 59401
(406) 761-1574

12 - 6th Street South
Great Falls, MT 59401
(406) 452-9585

Helena: Federal Building
Drawer 10033
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-5480, 449-5483

Federal Building
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-5251

Missoula: Federal Building
Box 7488
Missoula, MT 59807
(406) 728-2043, 728-0083

200 E. Broadway
P.O. Box 8568
Missoula, MT 59807
(406) 329-3528

CONGRESSMAN

Congressman Pat Williams
Room 1233 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3211

Congressman Ron Marlenee
Room 126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-1555

Helena: Steamboat Block
616 Helena Avenue
(406) 443-7878

Billings: Federal Building
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 657-6753

Butte: Old Metals Bank Building
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-4404

Great Falls: 312 - 9th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 453-3264

Missoula: Western Bank Building
P.O. Box 7223
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 549-5550

FROSTBITE

*Excerpts from an article by:
Col. John H. Calvert, Jr., MC
Chief, Aerospace Medicine
Scott AFB, Ill.*

For 15 years there hasn't been a single documented case of frostbite among the Lapps who live in the northern part of Sweden where temperatures often go below -30 degrees F -- they even herd reindeer with snowmobiles. These folks don't have any special built-in protection, but they do know how to dress and live in a cold climate.

Knowing what Montana winters can bring, each of us should be concerned about frostbite. At its worst, it can be a painful and disfiguring injury. Frostbite is the freezing of the moisture in your body's tissues. Generally, frostbite is classified as either superficial or deep. Superficial frostbite damages only the outer surface layers of the skin and you can usually make an unscarred recovery. Deep frostbite, on the other hand, is serious business because muscles, nerves and sometimes even bones may be frozen. Quite often, deep frostbite results in gangrene and amputation of the affected areas.

Frostbite can sneak up on you because there isn't much pain associated with the freezing process. You may feel some tingling, stinging, or a dull ache as the flesh freezes, but that's soon followed by numbness. If the cold stops hurting, it's likely that you *already* have been injured. At first the exposed skin may look red. Then it becomes progressively pale or waxy white. Next, the affected body part may feel wood-hard, and if it's truly frozen, the skin will be dead white and brittle. Now you're in real trouble, but it won't hurt since the frozen member lacks sensation. Studies show that every part of the body can be frostbitten, but ears, nose, hands, and feet are most commonly affected.

Low temperatures and wind are the "Destructive Duo" that team up to destroy tissue. The wind velocity is an important factor because your body loses heat faster when the wind sweeps away the thin layer of warm air next to your skin. (Low humidity or precipitation also increase body heat loss). Any movement of air past your body - walking, running, or riding in an open vehicle - will have the same effect as the wind.

The keys to preventing cold injury are conserving body heat and maintaining good blood circulation. To accomplish this, keep "C-O-L-D",....

"C"... Clean: Keep your clothes clean, dirt, oil, lubricants, and moisture clog the air spaces in clothes and rob the material of its insulating properties.

"O"... Overheating: When you're working or if the temperature rises, avoid overheating by removing excess layers of clothing before sweating gets the inner layers wet.

"L"... Loose Layers: Wearing loose layers of clothing traps air between the layers where it acts as insulation. Loose clothing also allows efficient blood circulation. Be extra careful not to restrict blood flow to hands and feet.

"D"... Dry: Keep outside clothes dry. Wet clothes actually increase heat loss. The outer layer of clothes should be water-repellent, but not waterproof (except for footwear), so that the garments can "breathe".....

FROSTBITE (Continued)

If you suspect injury---Get out of the cold and get warm!

Next, remove any constricting clothing and wrap up in blankets to help your body use its own heat. Drinking hot liquids such as tea or coffee is okay, but alcohol is a no-no. Alcohol (like nicotine) has an undesirable effect on the circulatory system and may do more harm than good.

Resist the temptation to rub the affected area. The skin is already damaged and rubbing will possibly lead to permanent damage. Don't apply direct, dry heat to the injured area because frozen skin doesn't have any feeling; you could burn the already frostbitten skin.

The next step, if at all possible, is to get medical help. It's possible to thaw a frozen part, but it's best done at a medical facility. It's going to hurt a lot! With proper treatment, the injured part can usually be saved and restored to full useful function.

Remember that prevention is the best cure. If you wear the right clothes you should stay warm and safe during your exposure to cold.

* * * * *

NASDDP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Montana bid for and received the honor of hosting the Fall Conference of the National Association of State Directors for Disaster Preparedness (NASDDP) which was held in Kalispell on September 23-26, 1979. All in all, it proved to be one of the largest conferences held in the past few years, thirty-five states, two territories, five Federal Agencies and two volunteer Agencies were represented. Our thanks to the Montana Association of DES Coordinators for their support during this National Conference. Special thanks go out to Jim Kraft, President of the Association, who taped the session for the National Secretary who was unable to attend; Wilma Puich, who assisted in the registration and organized the "Installation Ceremonies (Montana Style) for the incoming officers; Mike Fleming, Mr. Magic himself, who entertained the group; and of course, Kim Potter, who acted as Master of Ceremonies during the "Montana Luncheon".

With this kind of dedication and support, we couldn't go wrong-----Thanks.

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SCHOOL DISASTER PLANS

The question came up at the Advanced Seminar as to whether or not a school was required to have a disaster plan.

From what we are able to find out, the answer is no! There apparently is no Federal or State requirement for such a plan. School accreditation or funding receipts are apparently not contingent upon any requirements for a disaster plan. However, though they do not need a written plan, each school must (by State Law) have eight (8) fire drills per year.

So, it looks like it's dependent upon each of you to convince your school administration of the vital necessity for some type of school disaster plan.

STATUS - Fiscal Year '79
Personnel & Administrative Program (P&A)

Seems like we're singing the same old phrases of the same old song that's been the P&A theme song for the past three years... "The Postman went by, No monies today".

Knowing that our original FY79 P&A allocation would not cover our anticipated expenditures for the year, we submitted a supplemental request to DCPA at the beginning of the fiscal year. But, the only "monies" that the mailman delivered during the year toward our deficit was a measly \$1823 which still leaves us short a bunch!

So, based on the current expenditure rate (as reflected on the monthly billings being submitted), we'll have to hold reimbursement for "salaries" for the months of August and September 1979, but will have enough to cover ALL expenditures for "travel" and "all other".

Actually, since we asked for \$59,000.00 and got \$1,823.00, we kind of feel like the little boy in the following story:

A little boy very badly wanted \$100.00 so his mother told him to pray to God for it. He prayed and prayed, but for two weeks nothing turned up. Then he decided perhaps he should write God a letter requesting the \$100.00. When the postal authorities received the letter addressed to God, they opened it and decided to send it to the President. The President was so touched and amused that he instructed his secretary to send the little boy a check for \$5.00. He thought this would appear to be "a lot" of money to a little boy. The little boy was delighted with the \$5.00 and sat down to write a thank you letter to God which ran as follows:

"Dear God: Thank you very much for sending me the money. I noticed that you had to send it through Washington. As usual, those bastards deducted 95%!"

* * * * *

NUCLEAR CIVIL PROTECTION (NCP)

by Dan Lieberg, Chief Planner

So far nothing has changed in the way of Nuclear Civil Protection Planning from the FEMA standpoint. We continue to have only two options for protection against nuclear attack: (1) "In-place" or Community Shelter Planning (CSP) and (2) Crisis Relocation Planning (CRP).

In the near future, this office will be contacting the County Disaster and Emergency Service Coordinators in the Minuteman Missile risk area to discuss, hopefully with local leaders, protection from nuclear attack. If your County does not accept either Crisis Relocation or Community Shelter Planning as viable programs, that's fine. We are not going to twist any arms, it's your County's decision--we just want to talk!

We'll look forward to meeting with you.

"WINTER STORM" Slide Series Available

The State Office has obtained a slide presentation (80 slides) with tape and commentary from the National Weather Service called, "Winter Storm - The Deceptive Killers". Use of this slide presentation maybe scheduled through Marlys Cain at the State Office.

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RACES/RADEF EXERCISES

Scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 1980 --- more information will be forthcoming

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HAZARD MITIGATION

On October 16-17, 1979, the Department of Natural Resources, Corps of Engineers and the Missoula County Planning Board jointly sponsored a seminar in Missoula on flood plain management. The goal of the seminar was to find better solutions for the problems of flood plain development. Attendees represented planning boards, local government officials, sanitary engineers, and State and Federal officials responsible for making or administering flood plain policy.

Based on new Federal policy initiatives, there will undoubtedly be additional emphasis placed on all hazard mitigation, and since flooding is the most recurrent and damaging natural hazard, local and state involvement will increase.

Unfortunately, this meeting conflicted with the DES sponsored Advance Seminar in Billings.

The role that local DES coordinators will play in this process remains to be seen, but as more and more flood plains are identified, the responsibility for planning for, developing hazard mitigation plans, or administering them, may become just one more hat for the local DES director to wear!

Plans are being formalized for similar meetings to be held at other locations in the state. We will notify directors when they are set.

* * * * *

EXCESS PROPERTY PARTS

The State Office has received advertisements from the following supplier of parts for Excess Property Vehicles:

Rocket Sales Company
2449 Mandeville Canyon Road
Los Angeles, California 90049
(213) 472-0668

They "specialize" in military vehicle parts---can supply by Federal Stock Number, Ordnance Number or Manufacturer's Part Number.

U.S. Army Parts Books, overhaul manuals available

"HAZARD MITIGATION"

Hazard Mitigation..."to make or become milder, less severe, less painful"...or so the dictionary definition reads. It's a concept in disaster preparedness that has not really been a major consideration of our program in the past, but under the new FEMA concept, it's a phrase that we're going to learn more about.

Actually, the "mitigation" of a hazard is not really a "new" concept, just one that people have been reluctant to do anything about as shown in the following poem written back in "1895" by Joseph Malins:

*"Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed,
Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;
But over its terrible edge there had slipped
A duke, and full many a peasant.
The people said something would have to be done,
But their projects did not at all tally.
Some said "Put a fence 'round the edge of the cliff,"
Some, "An ambulance down in the valley."*

*The lament of the crowd was profound and was loud,
As their tears overflowed with their pity;
But the cry for the ambulance carried the day
As it spread through the neighbouring city.
A collection was made, to accumulate aid,
And the dwellers in highway and alley
Gave dollars or cents--not to furnish a fence--
But an ambulance down in the valley.*

*"For the cliff is all right if you're careful," they said;
"And, if folks ever slip and are dropping,
It isn't the slipping that hurts them so much
As the shock down below--when they're stopping."
So for years (we have heard), as these mishaps occurred
Quick forth would the rescuers sally,
To pick up the victims who fell from the cliff,
With the ambulance down in the valley.*

*Said one, to his plea, "It's a marvel to me
That you'd give so much greater attention
To repairing results than to curing the cause;
You had much better aim at prevention.
For the mischief, of course, should be stopped at its source;
Come, neighbours and friends, let us rally.
It is far better sense to rely on a fence
Than an ambulance down in the valley."*

*"He is wrong in his head," the majority said;
"He would end all our earnest endeavor.
He's a man who would shirk this responsible work,
But we will support it forever.
Aren't we picking up all, just as fast as they fall,
And giving them care liberally?
A superfluous fence is of no consequence,
If the ambulance works in the valley."*

*The story looks queer as we've written it here,
But things oft occur that are stranger.
More humane, we assert, than to succour the hurt
Is the plan of removing the danger.
The best possible course is to safeguard the source
By attending to things rationally.
Yes, build up the fence and let us dispense
With the ambulance down in the valley.*

GOVERNMENT

1897



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